

The Funeral Sermon and memoir were written by **White Kennet** (1660-1728), Archdeacon of Huntington, and Bishop of Peterborough, who was an admirer of James II as a student, but afterwards became an open open supporter of the Revolution and a zealous Whig partisan. He was also one of the original members of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

## artefacts

Immediately prior to the Battle of the Boyne, William of Orange was struck by a cannon ball as he viewed the Jacobite army from the banks of the river.

In the Williamite archive is a handsomely carved chair, dated 1692, which shows the fortunate escape of William and carries the name of **William Bentinck**, Earl of Portland, as well as portraits of both William and Mary. The chair came from the household of the Earl of Portland.

An exquisite saddle cloth of crimson velvet embroidered with pure gold which was owned by William III also features in the archive.

This saddle cloth was presented to **Thomas Coningsby**, Quartermaster General in the Williamite Army, by King William and includes a warrant and seal from the King and Queen.



Chair detail, showing William wounded at the Boyne



Period coins

Another material item which is owned by the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland is a pair of gauntlets worn by King William III and formerly owned by the **Blacker Family** of Portadown, who were prominent in the development of the Orange Institution, which was formed in 1795.

The ship which brought William to England in 1688 was the Princess Mary, and it was later known as the Betsy Cairns. The vessel was wrecked near Tynemouth in February 1827, but a pen holder made of timber from the Betsy Cairns is one of the more unusual items in the archive.

It is silver mounted and was presented to the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland in 1938 by **Lowry Cole MBE** of Rackheath, Norwich. It is believed that the penholder was presented to his grandfather, **William Willoughby**, third Earl of Enniskillen, when he was Imperial Grand Master of the Orange Institution.

A Williamite Goblet which is held in the archive once belonged to **Joseph Bles** and later belonged to Eldon LOL No. 7 in Belfast. It is believed to be one of the oldest and rarest of such Williamite vessels to have survived. It was probably used at one of the original Protestant Associations which preceded the formation of the Orange Institution. The Goblet is probably pre-1750 and is 12 and a half inches in height.



The Mammoth Goblet

## paintings



A. M. Davis

There are a number of paintings relating to the period in the Williamite archive, including portraits of William by **Wissing**, and scenes from the Boyne valley.

One painting of the Boyne Obelisk dated 1896 by **A. M. Davis** shows Oldbridge House in the background. The village of Oldbridge no longer stands nearby, although archaeological work has helped detail what it would have looked like.

The obelisk at the Boyne was erected in 1736 and the first stone was laid by the **Duke of Dorset**, Lord Lieutenant of the Kingdom of Ireland. The monument was destroyed in a bomb explosion in May 1923.

*The Williamite Archive is open to the public as an educational resource.*



## The Williamite Archive

An educational resource

And a link with the past...

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# The Williamite Archive



of the  
**Grand Orange Lodge  
of Ireland**

# a formative period

The Battle of the Boyne and the period surrounding it was a formative one in the history of the British Isles.

The victory of William of Orange was about much more than the success of a Protestant ruler over a Roman Catholic monarch.

The future direction of the United Kingdom as a constitutional monarchy was, literally, decided on the banks of the Boyne. There was also a major European dimension to the conflict, highlighted by the number of European troops who fought on both sides.

Several societies were formed to commemorate the Boyne and the Williamite victory in the years afterwards, and when the Loyal Orange Institution was formed in September 1795, it naturally looked back to the legacy of William of Orange.

The Institution had been pre-dated by other Societies which met with the purpose of commemorating the anniversary of the Boyne, these including the Aldermen of Skinners Alley in Dublin, which was formed by the Protestant members of the City Council ejected by James II. They continued to meet and celebrate King William's birthday on 4th November and the Battle of the Boyne on 1st July until about the year 1825.

The Loyal and Friendly Society of the Blues and the Orange was an Officers Club in the Fourth Regiment of Foot, later the Kings Own Royal Regiment, which was the first to join The Prince of Orange when he landed in England. It had no branches and was dissolved in 1835.

The Boyne Society, which was founded in Enniskillen by men who had fought in the Williamite Wars, was to have longer-lasting resonance. It spread to Dublin and formed branches in many parts of Ireland. The Battle of the Boyne was commemorated by its members on 1st July until 1762 and thereafter on 12th July.

The Orange Institution, formed in September 1795, quickly spread, not only across Ireland and the British Isles, but also to many parts of the world. Orangeism, as a consequence, exists today in many varied areas. Nevertheless, the heartland of the Orange tradition remains in Ireland, and the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland remains the custodian of many unique artefacts and documents relating to the Williamite period.

# Letters & documents

Among the letters and documents in the Williamite archive are documents signed by William III.

A parchment signed by **King William** authorising payments to various people for their services to the Crown clearly displays the King's signature.

By far the more historic document, however, is a letter written by William on June 9th 1690 to the **Marquis of Carmarthen**. This was the last letter which the Prince of Orange wrote before he left England for Ireland, subsequently arriving at Carrickfergus.

In the letter William states "All remaining troops are already in Ireland or so I am assured by a warship arriving yesterday from Carrickfergus which had left there the day before."

Near Hylack, this 9th June 1690

*I hope you are persuaded that what I told you through Mr Jan Launet was motivated by nothing else than in wanting to do you good I did you no harm, which is what I feared if my generosity towards you and your son became public before my return from Ireland. If I do not come back I am certain that the Queen will complete what I have begun, and if I return having firmly succeeded no-one will be able to criticize me, or will blame me, for doing good to a family which is so deserving, and for which I shall do all that is in my power throughout my life, to prove my gratitude and friendship, after what you have achieved in my service and what you have put yourselves through.*

*I had thought we would be embarking this morning but the wind is so adverse it is impossible. Come the slightest favourable wind I will not let the opportunity pass, although the money cannot be here until tomorrow evening or the morning of the day after, something which is no small hindrance given also that the ships transporting 1100 horses from Holland and ordered to come here have passed near Kirkcubery via which port I do not know, but I fear that as usual the Admiralty has not given clear enough instructions to the convoy, which means that three cavalry regiments are lacking ships, namely Oxford, Portland, and sch\_ Holland. All remaining troops are already in Ireland, or so I am assured by a warship arriving yesterday from Carrickfergus which had left there the day before. I had forgotten to tell you before my departure my feeling that when Parliament meets for the first time the Queen should prorogue it instead of adjourn it. I ask that you tell her this on my behalf and that you remain assured of my attention at all times.*

*W. III.*

*This letter was only able to be sent today the 10th, the wind is beginning to change and so I hope to embark tomorrow, the money has moreover arrived at Chester and will be here tonight.*

William's letter to the Marquis of Carmarthen in June 1690. Queen's University, Belfast, translation, 2006

# books

Among the books in the Williamite Archive is a 1690 Clark's Bible, which was presented to the Grand Lodge at its meeting of December 14, 1932.

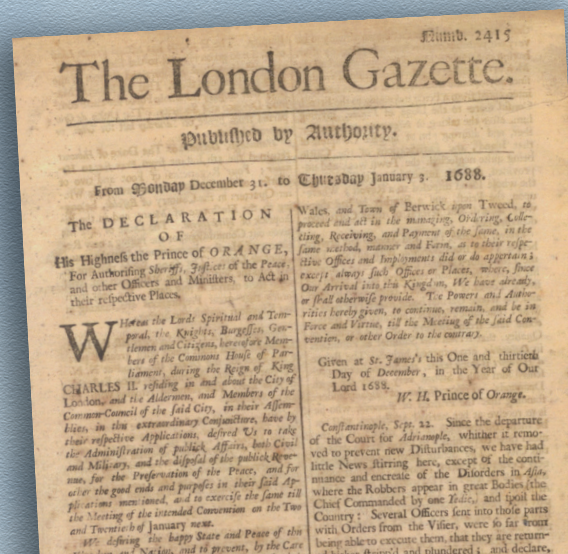
The Bible was a donation from **W. G. Draffin** of Colgates, Halstead, Sevenoaks, Kent, and was provided for the use of the Grand Lodge. It was presented on his behalf by Rt. Hon. **Viscount Craigavon DL, MP**, Prime Minister of Northern Ireland and a prominent member of the Institution.

The Bible is just one of many artefacts from and relating to the Williamite period. One of the more recent acquisitions, for example, was a book detailing the funeral sermon for the **Duke of Devonshire** in 1708, which also includes a memoir of the Cavendish family.

**William Cavendish**, 1st Duke of Devonshire (1640-1707) was a soldier and statesman who was leader of the anti-court and anti-Jacobite party in the House of Commons. A strong supporter of the Glorious Revolution of 1688, he was one of the so-called 'Immortal Seven' nobles who invited William to contend for the throne of England in June 1688. After the revolution, he was a leading Whig, serving as William's Lord Steward, and was created the Duke of Devonshire (1694) and also **Marquess of Hartington** in recognition for his services.

He married **Lady Mary Butler** (1646-1707), daughter of **James Butler, 1st Duke of Ormonde**, on October 26, 1662. One of the family homes was Chatsworth House.

The cover page of the Duke of Devonshire's funeral sermon in 1708. The Duke was one of the 'Immortal Seven' English nobles who invited William of Orange to England. Their letter to William in June 30, 1688, informed William that if he were to land in England with an army, the signatories and their allies would rise up and support him.



The London Gazette, 1688

